

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON -THURSDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7.30 PM

Present

Cllr M Munday - Chairman Mrs J Scott – Clerk Cllr B Feltwell Cllr M Bamford
Cllr D Schumacher Cllr J Wheals Cllr D Jones Cllr K Spicer

Also, in attendance -, District Councillor Dave Busby, Tree Warden, - 14 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Clerk received no notification of anyone planning to film or record this meeting.

1. To record apologies for absence - County Councillor Georgia Hall, District Councillor Helen Davies, Cllr A Thomas, Speedwatch Co-ordinator & Footpath Warden
2. To receive Declaration of Interest relating to Agenda items: - Non received
3. Dispensations – to consider written requests for dispensation of disclosable pecuniary interest in matters relating to Agenda items – None received
4. To approve Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4 January 2024 - The minutes were approved as a true record and were duly signed.

Proposed Cllr K Spicer Seconded Cllr D Jones All in favour CU

5. Matters arising from the Minutes – Page 1211 item 9 – E-mail has been sent to Babergh re To discuss Call for Land for Nature Recovery – Babergh have replied and would be happy to meet and discuss opportunities. **Item 10** -To discuss Newly planted hedge – Footpath 40 SCC have been contacted -**item 12** Precept Form was sent to BDC – There was no referendum limit. **Page 1212 item 21** – BDC Enforcement Team were informed of the clearing work on Land at Hazel Shrub Enforcement have closed the latest referral as the alleged issues do not meet the threshold for further enforcement involvement or action at this time.

Public Session

County Councillor G Hall - Had sent her written report which has been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 1** in the minute book and on the website.

District Councillor D Busby – Briefing Notes for Town & Parish Councils for February had been received and circulated to Councillors - **APPENDIX 1** in the minute book and on the website. District Councillor Busby talked about District Council Network- meeting 9 February - next week 5/2/24 talking with Suzie Lamplugh Trust supporting victims. ED Charging – supporting Community Organisations to install ED chargers. – Role of Local Authorities – Q & A - there is also some fully funded charging for Community Car Parks – needed to apply by 19 January but this has now been extended. Funding available for community action on climate change. District Councillor Busby ended his report by giving Bentley Parish Council a pat on the back for the way they have dealt with the Solar Farm application they have been a pleasure to work with and he wished all Councils dealt with difficult applications in the same way.

Action: Clerk will send an e-mail the Village Hall Trustees to make them aware of funding for ED Charging.

6. Planning Applications –
 - a) To note decisions of Planning Authority on previous applications

DC/23/04242

11 Highfields

Permission Granted

b) To give comments on any new applications in hand –

DC/23/05656	Land at Grove Farm & Land East of the Railway Line	Construction of photovoltaic Solar Array, Ancillary Infrastructure, DNO Substation, Customer Substation, Grid Connection & Landscaping
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. Councillors **RECOMMENDED REFUSAL** most strongly on the grounds of impact on Landscape and Heritage Assets, loss of agricultural land, the impact on residential amenity and recreational amenity. The applicant's LVIA underestimates sensitivity of the landscape and is not considered robust (Councillors drew attention to documents produced by Alison Farmer & Tom Hill KC). Impact on use of Public Rights of Way have not been considered and the effects of the proposed development had been underestimated. There are no Community Benefits for the Village of Bentley. There were concerns that questions have been asked about the application still have not been addressed re noise aspect, siting of 2 substations with the addition of a DNO Substation also Glint and Glare. The application would also be contrary to the following policies in Bentley's Neighbourhood Plan. BEN3, BEN7, BEN11 & BEN12.- Objection document sent to Babergh Planning is attached.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr K Spicer All in favour CU

DC/24/00189	Ruseley, Hazel Shrub	Submission of Details (Reserved Matters) Application for outline planning permission DC/22/04762. Appearance Scale, landscaping & layout of the site for 1 no dwelling & cart lodge
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After discussing splays, Oak tree, height of roof and chimneys and receiving assurances from the applicant – it was realised that this was Reserved Matters.

c)

SCC/0105/22B	Brockley Wood Land off A12 Belstead Suffolk IP8 3JS	Proposal: Extraction, processing and sale of sand and gravel, processing of inert waste materials with associated plant and related sales, access works, phased restoration using inert recovered materials and aftercare plan Re-consultation of Regulation 25 Application Reason: Additional Information has been submitted
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This revised application with the removal of the previously proposed concrete batching plant still does not alter the impact on Bentley – there is still waste removal, processing plant, 243 traffic movements a day, there is also the impact on the rural landscape which can be emphasised more – it was therefore proposed that the response makes reference to the Alison Farmer Associates comments re Landscape and Visual Assessment. Cllr Bamford will circulate so the final response can be sent off to SCC by 11 February 2024. The final response will be attached to the minutes.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr K Spicer All in favour CU

7. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn Footpath Warden & Speedwatch - Tree Warden -**

Checked TPO 1 at 'The Oaks', Capel Road; oak tree reduction agreed. The TW visited the owner of Dodnash Wood, concerning the tree thinning taking place. Asked him why the thinning was taking place when the ground was saturated causing unnecessary damage. His answer was: thinning was booked to take place in September but was delayed because the contractor fell behind with previous work. He reported the work should be completed in a week's time. In December 2023 the TW helped plant 200 Woodland Trust tree saplings at Whitehouse Primary School, Ipswich. **Friends of Capel Library** – As a volunteer attended the 'Friends of Capel Library AGM, the Chairman thanked Bentley Parish Council for their financial support. A plea was made for more people to join Capel Library members to support the lack of funding. The membership cost is only £2 per year which most of us can afford, even if we don't use the library. The library is a vital resource for many people not only for books, it hosts many events, including a monthly film. **Footpath**

Warden – In the absence of the Footpath Warden Cllr Wheals told the meeting of a Footpath Society walk on 24 February starting at 10.30 am from the Village Hall and also that Footpath 40 falls outside regulations. **Speedwatch** – Nothing to report but hoping to restart this week (w/c 29th). - **Bentley Long Barn** – Nothing to report.

8. **Resignation from the Council** – The Chairman told the meeting she was very sorry to have received Councillor Moxey’s resignation from Bentley Parish Council - she has been finding it increasingly difficult to juggle her studies and PC work. Nicky has been a very valued member of the Council and we are very grateful for the extremely hard work she put into Bentley’s Neighbourhood Plan. The NHP documents will need to be centralised. The Clerk was instructed to write a letter of thanks to Councillor Moxey. It was proposed that the resignation be accepted.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr K Spicer All in favour CU

Action: Letter of thanks to Nicky Moxey

9. **To appoint Responsible Financial Officer** – Councillors proposed that the Clerk be appointed the Responsible Financial Officer.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell Seconded Cllr M Bamford All in favour CU

10. **To instruct Julie Lawes to audit End of Year Account 2023/24 -** The Clerk told the meeting she had contacted Julie who was prepared to do the Internal Audit - £15K-25K = £200 - £25K-£50K = £250. It was therefore proposed that Julie be instructed to undertake the 2023/24 Internal audit.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell Seconded Cllr K Spicer All in favour CU

Action: Instruct Julie Lawes re Internal Audit

11. **To discuss dangerous trees in the copse** – There are some quite dangerous trees in the copse – Councillor Feltwell has contacted Otley College to see if they would be interested in helping at minimal cost but as yet hasn’t received a response.

Proposed Cllr M Munday Seconded Cllr D Jones All in favour CU

12. **To discuss affordable Housing** – Hastoe has been contacted and they would like to meet with us with Community Action Suffolk to discuss how we can work together to bring forward a Rural Exception Site for affordable housing, seek our support in a Housing Needs Survey being commissioned (at no cost to the PC) and for Hastoe to explore a development in Bentley.

Action: Clerk to arrange meeting

13. **To Receive Internal Control Report** – Defer – Financial Working Party have not yet met via Zoom to discuss. Clerk will arrange a meeting asap to discuss this and Nine Month Accounts.

14. **To agree format of the Annual Parish Meeting -** Clerk will put a note on the invitations to Clubs asking if they are happy for the format to be the same as last year.

Action Send out invitations to Clubs & Societies

15. **To discuss 20s Plenty Campaign** – Clerk to make contact for Bentley to join the 20s Plenty Campaign.

Action: Join the 20s Plenty campaign

16. **Traffic Calming – Weight Restriction– Update -** Nothing to report

17. **Playing Field Society – Next Meeting** – Maritime reported that the gate to the school field had not been locked – Pedestrian gate into the School Field due to be done on 8 February – It was proposed that next Playing Field Society Meeting be held before the March meeting. We have yet to get policies for the field – we need to come up with working policies for usage – gate needs to be secured at all times. Clerk to e-mail School re their usage of the field this year.

Action – E-mail School re field usage

- 18. To receive Correspondence**–The Clerk drew Councillors’ attention to the following E-mails: Babergh x 7 – Solar Farm/Precept/land @Hazel Shrub/E-cigarettes recycling/ Spring Litter Pick 2024/Call for land for Nature Recovery – Suffolk County Council x 3 Brockley Wood/Footpath 40 – Residents x 7- Land @ Hazel Shrub/Closure of Grove Road for mains repair/SCC Update ref 447724/Naming new house at Woodview. Julie Lawes x 2 – re Internal Audit – Anglian Water x 2 re Road Closure 2/2/24 – County Cllr G Hall x 2 – Brockley Wood/Weight restriction on station Road 436667 – Mark Woods x 1 Housing Association details – Hastoe x 1 re Rural Exception site.

- 19. Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings**–**Cllr M Munday** – Had received an e-mail from Tom Hill regarding overgrown and leggy Yew trees in the Closed Churchyard. Agenda item March meeting.

Action: Yew trees in Closed Churchyard – Agenda Item

- 20. To Authorise Payments**- The following payments were authorised

101727	CEVC Primary School	School field fencing – half invoice cost	£1,617.00
101728	Alison Farmer Associates	Review – Grove Farm Solar LVIA	£1,140.00
101729	Tendring Tree Surgery	Elm Tree – Playing Field to be ratified	£192.00
101730	HMRC	Clerks Tax	£30.00
101731	Mrs J Scott	Clerks Salary – January	£572.43
		Minus tax	<u>-£30.00</u>
			£542.43
			£1052.65
		Plus Expenses	£60.22
		Room Allowance	£450.00
		U/Payment December	<u>£2.58</u>
			<u>£1,052.65</u>

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

Proposed Cllr J Wheals Seconded: Cllr D Schumacher All in favour CU

- 21. To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** - Thursday 7 March 2024. Preceded by a Playing Field Society Meeting at 7pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.29 pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: